

across the river. A daily paper, the *Manitoba Free Press*, had, however, been in existence for about five years. The Great West was unpopulated; and local troubles with the natives were concurrent with Cete-wayo's disturbances in Zululand.

After the meeting in Montreal in 1884—twenty-five years ago—several members of the association went out West and caught a glimpse of Winnipeg; some of these have described their impressions of the Winnipeg of that date. The chief of these seem to be the wide Main Street, in the centre of it the rails of the one-horse tramcars, with a lateral ocean of black mud, in which it was no uncommon sight to see derelict vehicles of every description. Quite different will be the experience of the visitors next August. The width of Main Street, Portage Avenue, and Broadway will present itself as the most striking feature, with their fine asphalt roadways and granolithic "side-walks." The buildings will be found of the most modern type, and many may lay claim to considerable architectural excellence. The Bank buildings, railway termini, and Government offices will be especially noticeable in this respect. There is no need, however, in this place to enter into details about the city, as these will be fully dealt with in the handbook supplied to visitors on arrival.

The rate of progress in Winnipeg is too well known to need emphasis. The writer has noticed wonderful changes within even the past five years. The railway stations, principal hotel, largest business blocks, and the new theatre have all sprung up within this period. The following illustrates the attitude of mind of the enthusiastic "Winnipegger." A conversation was overheard on a train going east; a typical Winnipegger asked a returning tourist the inevitable question, "What do you think of our city?" "Not much of a place; saw it all in ten minutes!" "When did you see it?" "Two weeks ago." "Ah! but you should see it now!"

The invitation to meet at Winnipeg originated with the Royal Society of Canada, which considered that as previous meetings of the association had been successfully held in Montreal and Toronto, the third meeting in Canada might appropriately be held in the Prairie City. A committee of the Royal Society of Canada was appointed to approach the council of the City of Winnipeg, and to urge upon it the advisability of issuing an invitation to the British Association. The city, acting upon this suggestion, forwarded an invitation to the association at its meeting in South Africa, that it should meet in Winnipeg in 1907. This invitation was supported by the faculty of science of the University of Manitoba and by the Manitoba Historical Society. The council of the association, realising the difficulty of meeting overseas so soon after the South African meeting, felt bound to refuse the invitation for the year 1907, but intimated that if the offer were renewed for a subsequent year it would be favourably considered. The City of Winnipeg accordingly issued a renewed invitation to meet there in 1909, and a deputation consisting of the Rev. Dr. Bryce, Prof. M. A. Parker, and Prof. Swale Vincent interviewed the officers of the association, and, in addition, Profs. Parker and Vincent attended the York meeting and supported the invitation. At that meeting the offer was definitely accepted. Previously, the Dominion Government had promised generous financial support, and the fund now at the disposal of the executive committee at Winnipeg amounts to about 10,000*l.* In addition to the Dominion Government grant of 5000*l.*, the Province of Manitoba has appropriated 2000*l.*, the City of Winnipeg 1000*l.*, and the western provinces and cities have undertaken to bear the expense of the

western excursion of office bearers and distinguished guests.

At a public meeting held in March, 1907, a large and representative local general committee was appointed, and the executive committee and the usual subcommittees were elected. The local arrangements are now well in hand. The four local secretaries are Mr. C. N. Bell, Mr. W. Sanford Evans (Mayor), Prof. M. A. Parker, and Prof. Swale Vincent, the local treasurer being Mr. John Aird, manager of the Bank of Commerce. The office of the local secretaries has been installed in the University of Manitoba.

Arrangements have been made with the Canadian railways by which members of the association can obtain return tickets to Winnipeg from the port of landing at single fares, and the same terms are also available for extended trips; some concessions have also been obtained from the steamship companies.

Much interest in the meeting has already been manifested in Canada and the United States, as well as in Great Britain, and it may reasonably be expected that a large number of men of science from both sides of the Atlantic will take advantage of the meeting—not only because of their interest in science, but in order to obtain a glimpse of the great Canadian West, and to meet its people.

Invitations to attend the meeting are being sent to the leading men of science on the continents of Europe and America. The attendance of a large number of men of science from the United States, and of distinguished foreigners, will go far to impart an international character to the gathering, and will give a special value and interest to many of the discussions.

The last week of August is perhaps the most favourable time at which to make a visit to Winnipeg and the Canadian West. The climate at this season is delightful—warm days and cool nights. In the city everything is looking at its best, and in the country the harvesting operations are in full progress.

By the kindness of the Provincial Government, the Department of Militia and Defence, and various boards, permission has been granted for the use of the following buildings, which will be used as meeting places:—the Legislative Chamber in the Parliament Buildings, the Drill Hall, the University of Manitoba, Manitoba and Wesley Colleges, the Alexandra, Carlton, and Isbister Schools.

One of the finest playhouses on the continent of America, the Walker Theatre, has been engaged for five evenings for the president's address, the evening discourses, and the popular lectures. Sir J. J. Thomson will give his address there on Wednesday, August 25. On August 26, Dr. A. E. H. Tutton, F.R.S., will discourse on "The Seven Styles of Crystal Architecture"; on August 31, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S., will lecture on "Our Food from the Waters"; Prof. Harold B. Dixon, F.R.S., will deal with "The Chemistry of Flame" on August 30; and Prof. J. H. Poynting, F.R.S., with "The Pressure of Light," on September 1.

Winnipeg is noted throughout the Dominion for its hospitality; the work of the hospitality committee is in full swing, and visitors may be assured of a hearty welcome.

THE DARWIN CENTENARY CELEBRATION.

CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN was born on February 12, 1809, the same day that Abraham Lincoln first saw the light. The anniversary of this day was celebrated by many gatherings and "recitations" in North America, and it is a marked sign of the times that these celebrations were in most cases held in the churches and chapels of the numerous

denominations which flourish in the United States. But February in England is an awkward month to gather together from all over the world a large assemblage of distinguished men of science, and Cambridge decided to celebrate the centenary of her great biologist in what we hope may prove the more genial month of June.

The question of date was from the first a matter of some difficulty; it was, so far as possible, desirable to select such a time as would enable professors and others who are tied by university duties to be present, so it could not be fixed before the end of June. On the other hand, owing to the fact that the various courses of university lectures, which at Cambridge yearly become more numerous during the long vacation, begin this summer on July 6, the colleges will have their rooms for the most part fully occupied by July 5.

There was thus little margin for choice, and Tuesday, June 22, the day of the second general admission to degrees, was settled for the first day of the celebration. This will formally begin at 8.30 p.m., when there will be a reception of delegates and other invited guests in the Fitzwilliam Museum by the Chancellor of the University, Lord Rayleigh, O.M., F.R.S., Sc.D. The Chancellor will receive guests at the head of the staircase, and to him all delegates and guests who are not resident members of the Senate will be formally presented by the Registrar. On Wednesday, June 23, at 10.30 a.m., presentations of addresses by delegates of universities, colleges, academies, and learned societies will take place in the Senate House. This ceremony will begin with a short address by the Chancellor, followed by the presentation of delegates and of addresses. A short speech will be delivered by one representative of each of the chief countries represented.

During the earlier half of the afternoon visits to colleges will be paid, and from 4 to 6 p.m. a garden party will be given by the master and fellows of Christ's College in the college grounds. The rooms occupied by Charles Darwin when an undergraduate of Christ's College will be open to visitors during the afternoon of Wednesday, June 23, and during the morning and afternoon of Thursday, June 24. The bronze bust by Mr. Couper, of New York, which the American delegates are presenting to Christ's College will be on view.

At 7 p.m. there will be a banquet in the new examination hall, behind the museums.

After the banquet the master and fellows of Pembroke College will give an "At Home" in the college hall and gardens.

On Thursday, June 24, at 11 a.m., honorary degrees will be conferred in the Senate House on some eighteen distinguished men who have followed in the footsteps of Darwin; amongst these our only fellow-countryman is Mr. Francis Darwin, his father's distinguished biographer. At 12 noon the Rede lecture will be delivered by Sir Archibald Geikie, K.C.B., President of the Royal Society. His subject will be "Darwin as Geologist."

During the afternoon a garden party will be given by Mr. William Erasmus Darwin, Sir George and Lady Darwin, Mr. Francis Darwin and Miss Frances Darwin, Major and Mrs. Leonard Darwin, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Darwin, Mrs. Litchfield, and Miss Darwin, in the Fellows' Garden, or, if wet, in the hall and cloisters of Trinity College, which have been kindly lent by the master and fellows.

During the celebration, and for some days before, there will be an exhibition of portraits, books, and other objects of interest in connection with Darwin, in the Old Library of Christ's College (entrance from

the First Court). The exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Amongst the more interesting exhibits are the oil painting by Collier, lent by the Linnean Society; one by Richmond, lent by the University; and one by Oulless, lent by Mr. William Darwin. There are also numerous oil paintings of Erasmus Darwin, Robert W. Darwin, and other members of the family; several water-colours of Down and of Charles Darwin's birth-place are also shown. A very large number of sketches and photographs are also exhibited, many MS. note-books and letters, and numerous copies of the first editions of Darwin's books containing his own notes. There is also a collection of instruments used on board the *Beagle*, and medals, orders, and diplomas presented to Charles Darwin.

Charles Darwin's library, which Mr. Francis Darwin has generously transferred to the Botany School, Downing Street, may be seen on application at the Botany School at any time between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., or between 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m., during the celebration. A few of the most interesting volumes will be displayed in the Botanical Museum. Further, the Librarian, Mr. F. J. H. Jenkinson, has arranged in the University Library an exhibition of MSS. and books illustrating the progress of biological study during the last fifty years.

In connection with the celebration, numerous publications are appearing at Cambridge. At the instigation of the Philosophical Society the University Press has issued a volume of important essays, edited by Prof. Seward, in which some of the leading biologists of the world pass in review the results achieved by Darwin's own work, and others concern themselves with the progress of science on lines which are the direct outcome of his work. The University Press is also publishing reprints of the first sketch of "The Origin of Species." A copy of this will be presented to each of the delegates. Later it will be re-printed, together with Darwin's second sketch of his "species-theory," in a single volume, and be on sale. The executive committee is, further, preparing a quarto volume entitled "The Order of the Proceedings at the Darwin Centenary." This will have numerous illustrations, and will contain a sketch of Charles Darwin's life, together with a programme of the celebration.

Finally, Christ's College is publishing an exhaustive catalogue of the Darwin Exhibition, and a special Darwin number of the college magazine, on the lines of the very successful Milton number of last year. This will contain an account of the life of Darwin at Shrewsbury; at his two universities (Edinburgh and Cambridge); a sketch of Christ's College about the time Darwin was in residence, by the Master of the College; Darwin and the Linnean Society, by Dr. Daydon Jackson, the general secretary of the society; and some letters which Mr. A. R. Wallace has kindly placed at the disposal of the magazine committee, some of which have not been published before. There will also be short articles on present-day Darwinism, and on his Plants and Animals under domestication.

NOTES.

THE closing meeting of the seventh International Congress of Applied Chemistry was held on June 2, when Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the American Ambassador, read a letter from the Secretary of State of the United States intimating that the President had approved a joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives authorising the President to invite the International Congress of Applied Chemistry to hold its eighth meeting in the United States of America in 1912. The invitation